

## Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 FEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 L-03 H-02 JUSE-00 /086 W

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R 242119Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2120

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, VE

SUBJ: OCCIDENTIAL PETROLEUM BRIBERY CASE

REF: CARACAS 1820

1. MEP DEPUTY SIUBERTO MARTINEZ, CHAIRMAN OF THE VENEZUELAN BICAMERAL CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE CHARGES THAT THE OCCIDENTIAL PETROLEUM COMPANY BRIBED GOV OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN VENEZUELAN SERVICE CONTRACTS, ON FEBRUARY 21 PUBLICLY ACCUSED JOHN A. ASKEW, A US CITIZEN AND PRESIDENT OF THE ALTARMAR DRILLING COMPANY, WHICH HAD DONE BUSINESS WITH OCCIDENTAL (AND OF WHICH JOSE TORO HARDY (CARACAS 1820) IS A SHAREHOLDER), OF BRIBING VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS.

2. ACCORDING TO MARTINEZ, ASKEW RECEIVED ALMOST \$3 MILLION FROM OCCIDENTAL, DISTRIBUTED ABOUT \$1 MILLION IN BRIBES AND WITH THE REST BOUGHT THE ALTARMAR DRILLING COMPANY. MARTINEZ GAVE THE REPORTERS DETAILS OF HOW HE BELIEVED ASKEW HAD CARRIED OUT HIS BRIBERY WHICH, HE ALLEGED, TOOK PLACE BETWEEN 1966 AND 1971. REFERRING TO THE LIST OF PERSONS IDENTIFIED LAST WEEK BY THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE AS HAVING RECEIVED BRIBES, MARTINEZ SAID, "ALL OF THEM (GUILTY OF BRIBES) ARE NOT ON IT, NOR ARE ALL THOSE ON IT

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GUILTY."

3. ON FEBRUARY 23 ASKEW, EX-VENEZUELAN OPEC GOVERNOR ALBERTO FLORES, AND ROSA RIVERA ZAMORA, UNTIL RECENTLY A MINES MINISTRY EMPLOYEE (CARACAS 1820), APPEARED BEFORE THE JUDGE INVESTIGATING THE CASE. BOTH OF THE LATTER STATED THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE FATHERS HAD RECEIVED MONEY FROM ASKEW FOR VARIOUS SERVICES RENDERED, BUT DENIED HAVING ANY CONTACT WITH ASKEW THEMSELVES.

COMMENT. MARTINEZ AND THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE SEEM TO BE TRYING TO REGAIN THE INITIATIVE LOST TO PRESIDENT PEREZ LAST WEEK WHEN IT WAS REVEALED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD MADE HIS OWN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CASE, AND HAD DELIVERED THE RESULTS TO THE FISCAL GENERAL (CARACAS 1820).  
SHLAUDEMAM

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CORRUPTION, BRIBERY, INVESTIGATIONS, ALLEGATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Reference:** 76 CARACAS 1820  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** ENRG, PFOR, VE, US, OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM, (ASKEW, JOHN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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